

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 13, 2008

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Brian P. Major called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:33 P.M. in the Selectmen's conference room at the Town Offices. Present were: Chairman Major and Selectmen Ted E. Teichert and Mary K. Lyman. Also present was Town Manager Reginald S. Stapczynski. The meeting was duly posted and cablecast live.

II. Regular Business of the Board

A. Korean War Memorial Monument

Michael Burke, Veterans Services Director, appeared before the Board to give an overview of the Korean War Monument proposal. He recognized Judith Holt of the Design Review Board and members of the Korean War Committee for their assistance in finalizing the design being presented to the Board. He outlined the process that led to the final proposal – two public meetings, input from Town committees and boards, residents and a presentation to the Design Review Board. He reported that the monument will be placed in the southwest corner of The Park and said he, the Design Review Board and Superintendent of Parks & Grounds will determine the exact location in the Spring. He also informed the Board that he is looking into the future possibility of clustering all of the monuments in this area of The Park.

The monument will have a footprint of 6'6" in height, 5'10" at the base and will be 3'2" wide – tapered and contoured at the top. Mr. Burke discussed the texture of the monument – stipple finish on the top, steeled finish on the bottom – and compared the contrast of the finishes to North and South Korea with the slated groove separating them signifying the 38th parallel where a cease-fire was called to end the fighting. He reviewed the wording that will appear on the back of the monument explaining the history of "The Forgotten War". He noted that the monument will not only be a memorial to the veterans but will have an educational aspect to it as well. A private bench will also accompany the placement of the monument. He confirmed that the private funding for the monument is still in place. The dedication ceremony is scheduled to take place following the Memorial Day parade. He said Methuen Memorial has confirmed that if they receive a signed contract by February 22nd they will have the monument ready by that time.

Mr. Burke concluded his presentation by informing the Board that he wholeheartedly supports the proposed design and location and thanked Judith Holt and the members of the Korean War Committee for their tireless efforts in assisting him during the process.

Selectman Teichert inquired whether alternative sites have been selected in The Park should the present site not be feasible due to underground sprinklers, etc. Mr. Burke responded that there are a number of sites available in close proximity should that occur. He also noted that the educational piece on the back of the monument was a great idea.

II. Regular Business of the Board (Cont.)

A. Korean War Memorial Monument (Cont.)

Earl Efinger, 5 Iceland Road and a member of the Korean War Committee, said he wholeheartedly approves the proposal as presented and also thanked Judith Holt for her assistance.

Nancy Jeton, 57 Chestnut Street and former Planning Director for the Town, commended Mr. Burke on the process he directed in bringing this proposal to the Board. She said he inherited a difficult situation, had done a great job in mobilizing all of the stakeholders and handled the difficult conversations in an appropriate way. She said her concern has always been about the open space of The Park. She agreed it is important for the Veterans to have a place to gather and memorialize on their holidays, felt the present proposal is respectful of The Park's scale and that future clustering of monuments deserves special consideration. She encouraged the Board to be forward thinking concerning future uses of The Park. She said it is her hope they will now be proactive and spend the time and resources necessary to create a Master Plan for this small park as it is one of the Town's precious resources. It should continue to be a great place for people to gather on Veterans Day and Memorial Day as well as for other Town events and uses.

Chairman Major said he was proud of the public process used in bringing this proposal to the Board as it was the best of volunteers and staff working together for the greater good of the community. He commended all those involved in the process.

A motion was made by Selectman Lyman, seconded by Selectman Teichert, to approve the placement of the Korean War monument in The Park as presented. The vote was 3 – 0.

III. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M. to be followed by the Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra A. Cassano, Recording Secretary